

Black Beauty

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While reading
Chapters 1–5

1 Look at the words on the left. They are things for horses. Match them with the sentences.

- Harness** This part goes into the mouth. It is cold, hard and it hurts.
- Bit** This goes on the back. They need this to carry a man, woman or child.
- Saddle** Horses sleep here.
- Stable** The rider takes these in his hands to ride the horse.
- Whip** This part goes over the head.
- Reins** Horses go faster when the rider hits them with this.

2 Which horse is it? Choose the right name and complete the sentences.

- Black Beauty Merrylegs Ginger
- a** was small and fat, with a pretty head and happy eyes.
- b** had a beautiful red-brown coat but angry eyes.
- c** bit James in the arm and hurt him.
- d** carried the Gordon girls on his back.
- e** and pulled the carriage and John drove them.
- f** loved going fast.

3 Who are these people? Write sentences about each person matching the words in A, B and C.

A	B	C
Mr Gordon	The head groom	thought Black Beauty was a good name for the horse. loved all the horses.
James Howard	The owner's wife	was good to horses. Never whipped them and talked to them.
John Manly	A stable boy	was a very good rider. was good to Black Beauty.
Mrs Gordon	The owner of Birtwick Park	helped John to groom horses.

Chapters 6–8
4 Write why.

- a** Ginger, Merrylegs and Black Beauty were sad when they heard James's answer because
- b** Black Beauty stopped at the bridge. He did not cross it because
- c** Black Beauty couldn't go with the hotel groom when he pulled him out of the fire because
- d** Mr Gordon, James and the horses stayed in Aylesbury one more day because
- e** Little Joe Green couldn't groom Ginger or Black Beauty because

- 5 Which of these are right about grooms?**
- a** They have to work hard.
- b** They have a room, stable clothes and driving clothes.
- c** They have a wife.
- d** They give horses food.
- e** They can't get a better job on the same farm.
- 6 Match A and B about James.**

A	B
James wanted to go away to Sir Clifford's	so Black Beauty was very afraid for them.
James wanted to be a good driver	because it was a better job for him.
James put a coat round Black Beauty's eyes	because he wanted to learn the best way to make Ginger well again.
James went into the stable again to get Ginger out	so the carriage went out every day and they worked hard.
James spoke to older grooms at Aylesbury	so he couldn't see the fire.

- Chapters 9–11**
7 What happened first? Number the sentences 1–8.
- ☐ **a** At 3 o'clock Black Beauty and John stopped at the doctor's door.
- ☐ **b** Black Beauty was hot and tired but he took Dr White to Birtwick Park.



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- ☐ c Little Joe Green took Black Beauty to the stable and cleaned him.
- ☐ d Black Beauty started to feel cold and ill and was ill for a week.
- ☐ e One night, Black Beauty had to ride to Hertford fast.
- ☐ f The doctors' horses were not ready to go.
- ☐ g But he didn't put anything on Black Beauty.
- ☐ h John had to ask Dr White to come to see Mrs Gordon.

8 Who says these words? Who to? Write the names.

- a 'Wake up! You have to run now!' said to
- b 'You won't want a whip,' said to
- c 'My wife didn't die and we can thank you for that,' told
- d 'Mrs Gordon is here today because this beautiful horse brought me here quickly!' said to
- e 'They look very good, but horses are very different', said to

9 Are they happy or sad? Complete the sentences.

- a Black Beauty felt when Little Joe Green took him to the stable. He was very tired and hot.
- b Mr Gordon felt when his wife was ill again and they had to go away.
- c Merrylegs would be very because Mr Gordon was giving him to Mr Good, the kind church man.
- d When John said goodbye to the horses, Ginger and Black Beauty were very
- e Lady Westland wasn't because York did not pull the horses' heads high.

Chapters 12-15

10 Which of these sentences are right (✓) and which are wrong (X)?

- a Lord Westland cannot say 'no' to his wife. ☐
- b Max will die soon because he had an accident. ☐
- c Reuben Smith is not a boss because he is not good at his work. ☐
- d The groom at the hotel is kind to Black Beauty. ☐

- e Smith was angry with the groom because he was not careful about Black Beauty's shoes. ☐

11 Starting a new life in London. Match A and B.

A	B
Jerry	is Jerry's wife. She cleans her husband's cab.
Polly	is a big old white horse who pulls Jerry's cab eight hours a day.
Harry	is Black Beauty's new name in London.
Captain	is a small man with friendly eyes.
Dolly	helps his father to give food and water to his horses and to put the harness on them.
Jack	is eight. She is Jerry's daughter.

Chapters 16-18

12 Explain why.

- a Jerry took the young woman with a little boy to hospital because
- b The young woman started to cry because
- c Jerry wanted to find work in the country because
- d At Christmas, Jerry was ill because
- e Jerry sold Black Beauty to a farmer because

13 Five things are wrong. Find them and write the right sentences.

Mr Thoroughgood had to find a good home for Jack so he spoke to the men at Rose Hall. They were looking for a good horse for their cart. The farmer at Rose Hall began to clean Black Beauty and on his head he saw a white star. He remembered that Black Beauty had a white star and one white leg. Jack was Black Beauty and the groom was Little Joe Green.

After reading

- 14 Write: Black Beauty lives in your country now. Where does he live? What does he do? Are people kind to him?
- 15 Make a poster asking people to be kind to animals.



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Chapters 1–5

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)? Change the wrong sentences.

- a Black Beauty was not a farm horse because his mother and father were not born on a farm. ☐
- b He was not completely black, there was some white on his face, his back and one foot. ☐
- c At Birtwick Park he met his two friends Merrylegs and Ginger. ☐
- d John groomed Black Beauty very well: he looked at his feet and made his coat clean and beautiful. ☐
- e Mr Gordon was very good to the horses but he never gave them a day without work. ☐

Chapters 6–8

2 Which one is right?

- a James Howard, the stable boy, worked hard with John and the horses for six weeks because ...
 - i. he wanted Mr Gordon to give him more money.
 - ii. Mr Gordon got him a job as a groom on a friend's farm and he needed to learn.
 - iii. he loved Mr Gordon's horses and wanted to be good to them only.
- b Black Beauty and Ginger drove the big carriage to Oxford. This was seventy-five kilometres from the farm ...
 - i. so they stopped at a town for the night after driving for fifty kilometres.
 - ii. and he had problems with his feet after the long journey.
 - iii. so they started the journey very early that day.
- c When there was a fire in the stable, Black Beauty and Ginger could not get out because ...
 - i. they did not find the door.
 - ii. they had a coat over their heads.
 - iii. they did not know the other stable men and were afraid.

Chapters 9–11

3 Match. Complete using the right number.

- 1. John
- 2. Little Joe Green
- 3. Mr and Mrs Gordon
- 4. The Gordon's little girls
- 5. York
 - a ... didn't like bearing reins but Lady Westland's horses had to have their heads up.

- b ... gave Black Beauty some food and cold water.
- c ... cried when they said goodbye to Merrylegs.
- d ... rode Black Beauty very quickly to Dr White's.
- e ... were sad because they had to move to France.

Chapters 12–15

4 Look at this picture.



Answer these questions.

- a Where was Black Beauty going when the accident happened?
.....
- b What was wrong with Reuben?
.....
- c Why did Black Beauty fall?
.....
- d What happened to Reuben when Black Beauty fell?
.....
- e Did Black Beauty's life change after the accident on the road? Why?
.....

Chapters 16–18

5 Five things are wrong. Find them and write the right sentences.

Black Beauty lived with Jerry's family in London. Jerry sometimes whipped Black Beauty. Everyone in the family was kind to Black Beauty: Dolly did the stable work and Polly and Harry cleaned the cab. Winters were very cold in London and the cold weather was bad for Polly. So the family wanted to find a house in the country, but what would happen to Black Beauty?